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[For information pertaining to literary devices and conventions, abbreviations and explanations of numerations used by the author, see 6: Spate AW1 India, category 116, pp. xxi-xxiii, and xxv.

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education centre attracted many people from the village; both the library and cultural programmes became popular. The Engineering unit dug soakpits in the village, improved the village well and constructed several model smokeless ovens. This changed the attitude of the people considerably. To begin with the investigators making anthropological enquiry were regarded as a nuisance; now they were tolerated as inquisitive but friendly outsiders. In a few days there was a change for the better. We had never talked politics or religion, there was no propaganda or attempt at reform and no superiority of city-ways and sneering at the rustic ways of the village people in our attitude. Indifference turned into warmth and friendship, and at this point we intensified our anthropological investigations. At first a general sociological census of the community was taken, and later investigations of specific problems were started. A sample of 120 families representing different castes and levels of income, education and urban contacts was selected for intensive investigations. Episodic and topical life-histories were recorded from 80 people, besides 11 full biographies. This was done in a series of free-association interviews, which were controlled only in the final stages. Besides this the established method of participant observation and the usual techniques of anthropological enquiry were also used. The life-histories provide most of the material on inter-personal relations and attitudes, much of which has been translated in this book from the actual words of the informants. All the available village records were carefully studied, and as far as possible all the material collected was carefully checked. The research reports by other units on topics assigned to them—such as the medical examination of 1,200 people, a diet and nutritional survey, a survey of village agriculture and its problems, a survey of animal care and health—were carefully studied at the time of the preparation of this report and used at appropriate places; but most of them will be published, it is hoped, independently in professional journals.

My aim in this book has been to give a clear and intimate picture of some aspects of life in one Indian village. As the book is likely to be used by social anthropologists and sociologists as well as by others, I have endeavoured to keep my presentation fairly general. As our project had received considerable publicity in the Indian press we could not hide the identity of the village in a pseudonym. This in its turn has created several problems in the

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/28 mode of presentation. The people of the village are proud and sensitive, and some of them would not like to be identified through the remembered incidents even though fictitious names and initials are used. Many concrete cases which I would have liked to cite have therefore been omitted. Anxiety to avoid unwanted legal complications has forced me to present one or two subjects in a somewhat roundabout manner. But some concrete cases had to be presented, and this I have done in a spirit of friendship and in the hope that I will not be misunderstood by the village people. Although this work is not based on a statistical enquiry, sufficient statistical checks were used during the investigations. In several parts of the book, however, I have just indicated the dominant norms and main lines of variation without attempting a statistical and tabular presentation. It is my belief that fruitful theoretical discussions must be based on research of a more extensive scale than that attempted in the field-work summarized in this book, and as such I have reserved a part of my field-material, which has possibilities of theoretical exposition, for subsequent studies both of an extensive and comparative nature. Problems of caste, kinship and lineage organization, social stratification, leadership and the exercise of authority will be dealt with more fully on the basis of further field-work which we soon hope to extend to other rural communities in Hyderabad.